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GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HELD AT GENEVA ON 28 JUNE 1991

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION		
	A. Background	1 - 3	1
	B. Adoption of the Agenda	4	1
II.	GENERAL	5	1
III.	ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN	6	1
IV.	DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
	Decision on the 1991 General Target Programmes	7	2

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (EXCOM) which forms the subject of this report took place on 28 June 1991 and was held for the two reasons outlined below.

2. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Emeka Ayo Azikiwe of Nigeria, was informed that His Excellency Ambassador Franz Ceska (Austria), the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, would soon be leaving Geneva after having completed his tour of duty. In view of this imminent vacancy, and in line with the applicable Rules of Procedure, it became necessary for the Executive Committee to hold elections to fill the post of Vice-Chairman for the forty-first session of the Executive Committee.

3. In addition, the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters had made a recommendation at its 27 June 1991 meeting to the Executive Committee to increase the General Programmes Target from $ 355,555,500 to $ 379,036,300, in order to meet escalating needs, primarily resulting from developments in Africa, and had also recommended adoption of a decision relating thereto (see A/AC.96/XLI/CRP.10).

B. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Executive Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda:

(a) Opening of the session and adoption of the provisional agenda.

(b) Election of a new Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

(c) Consideration of 1991/1992 General Programmes - Proposed Targets.

(d) Closing of the session.

II. GENERAL

5. A full account of the deliberations of the Committee, including the introductory remarks of the Chairman under each agenda item, is contained in the Summary Records of the meeting issued as document A/AC.96/SR.462.

III. ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

6. Pursuant to its Rules of Procedure, the Committee elected by acclamation His Excellency Ambassador Bernard de Riedmatten (Switzerland) as Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

IV. DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

Decision on the 1991 General Programmes Target

7. The Executive Committee,

Having reviewed the information contained in the Update of UNHCR Expenditure, Funding and the Staffing Situation (document EC/SC.2/1991/CRP.13);

Having taken note of the oral progress report on the work of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at its meeting on 27 June 1991;

Noting the increase in the number and complexity of new refugee situations throughout the world and the added burden these pose for the international community, especially for refugee-hosting countries;

Recalling the need for UNHCR to respond to the new refugee situations, while respecting the priorities indicated in the above-mentioned Conference Room Paper, and bearing in mind the budgetary restraints imposed by the financial resources available to address these new refugee situations,

(a) Approves the revised 1991 General Programmes target of $ 379,036,300.;

(b) Notes with appreciation the continued strong donor support to UNHCR in 1991, and calls upon donors to consider urgently additional contributions to ensure timely and full funding of activities programmed for 1991, especially the increased requirements under General Programmes, unearmarked or earmarked in the broadest possible way in order to allow UNHCR the flexibility to allocate funds according to the most pressing needs and according to the priority it attaches to the funding of the General Programmes.